



2014

Idaho Forest Practices Year-End Report



Developed and Submitted by

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2014 Forest Practices Year-End Report

Overview

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) has set a goal to be the premier forest management agency in the West. We believe the results detailed in this report show that IDL is indeed achieving its goal! With the help of our industry partners, other agencies, and the public we will continue to promote active forest management in Idaho all the while protecting our forests.

At the beginning of each year, the Forest Practices Program Manager compiles, analyzes and distills data from the previous calendar year. This data is then translated into actionable information which is available to land managers, forestry professionals and other interested parties of the overall picture of *forest practices* activities on *private* and *state* forestlands. For this report, *private* forestlands include industrial and non-industrial private forestlands and it may include county or municipal forestlands. *State* forestlands include all endowment and other state owned lands where *forest practices* are administered by IDL.

Operations that were inspected on *state* and *private* forestlands in 2014 were **in compliance a record 98.4%** with The Idaho Forest Practices Act (FPA), Title 38, Chapter 13 of the Idaho Code. This statute was passed into Idaho law in 1974 and encourages sustainable forest operation on Idaho forestlands. These inspections demonstrate a continued high level of care and stewardship being implemented by Idaho forest managers and loggers during harvesting operations. In addition, the 2012 Forest Practices Water-Quality Audit, led by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, revealed a compliance rate with the Forest Practices rules of 99%.

It is indeed noteworthy to achieve these rates across so many different ownership classes, locations and environmentally protective standards! The details of these achievements in 2014 are contained in this report in comprehensive detail.

The FPA and associated administrative rules (Forest Practices Rules, IDAPA 20.02.01) were developed and are modified to promote active forest management, enhance the ecological and social benefits derived from Idaho forestlands, and maintain and protect vital forest resources. The Best Management Practices (BMPs) defined within the Forest Practices Rules are designed to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and forest health, and to enhance tree growth and vigor. These BMPs provide assurance to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) that Idaho is meeting the water quality standards prescribed for *forest practices* such as; harvesting, burning, planting, and the transporting of forest products.

IDL is statutorily charged with administering and enforcing the FPA and the Forest Practices Rules. The Forest Practices Program is administered within IDL's Bureau of Forestry Assistance and in 2014 a new policy was implemented for conducting FPA inspections on *state*

lands the same way they are conducted on *private* lands. Forest Practice inspections are conducted by IDL Private Forestry Specialists (PFSs) along with part-time inspectors who assist the PFSs. During inspections detailed, comprehensive inspection observations are recorded and submitted to the Forest Practices Program Manager for inclusion in the Forest Practices inspections database. The database provides a majority of the data and information contained in this report along with summaries of inspections completed during a given month. The Forest Practices Program Manager distributes a monthly Forest Practices Report. The monthly report primarily identifies unsatisfactory conditions which have been identified on inspections.

Additionally, IDL has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) under which IDL is granted the authority to permit and inspect specific stream-channel crossing structures installed as part of a defined *forest practice*. The Stream Channel Alteration Permit (SCAP) activities on *private* lands are also recorded by PFSs, and each year a report is provided to IDWR detailing those activities. SCAP activities on *state* lands are reported to IDWR by the Forest Management Bureau of IDL.

Every four years IDEQ administers and carries out a water-quality audit to monitor BMP compliance during recently completed harvest operations containing Class I streams. The audit conducted during the summer and early fall of 2012 examined 43 operational areas on industrial private, nonindustrial private, state, and federal ownership lands. Overall, the audit revealed that compliance rates were, on average, at an all-time high. The audit report is accessible at http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/fpa/978303-forest_practices_audit_2012.pdf

The Idaho Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee (FPAAC) is the body of professionals and concerned citizens charged with providing direction and leadership of new and revised FPA administrative rules. FPAAC is comprised of nine voting members across the state of Idaho representing family and industrial forest owners, fisheries biologists, citizens at large, and logging operators. There are also a number of ex officio members representing IDEQ, the Forest Service, environmental interests, technical specialists and others.

The number of Forest Practices *Notifications* submitted for operations on both *state* and *private* forestlands show that timber-harvest activity rose in 2014 to 2,427 notifications. This is a 12.4% increase from 2013. More importantly, 2014 inspections show a record high rate of compliance across all *forest practices* inspected operations of 98.4% compliant to all Forest Practices Rules.

The successes achieved in implementing the Idaho Forest Practices Acts rest with the collaboration and dedication of many individuals, organizations and sound science supporting the rulemaking.

Forest Practices Notifications on Private and State Forestlands

Before commencing any rule-defined *forest practice* (commercial or non-commercial), an *Operator* who is responsible for the forest-practice rules implementation and compliance, must file a Forest Practices *Notification* with IDL. When harvested wood will be solely used for the landowner's/harvesters personal use then no *Notification* is required. If a commercial operation is undertaken, and there is a potential to generate a slash hazard then a *Hazard Management Agreement (Compliance)* must also be submitted and signed by the *Contractor* who is responsible for slash management rule-compliance. Slash hazard mitigation on commercial operations must be inspected and a *Clearance* issued following harvesting and site-preparation operations. The *Notification* and the *Compliance* form are both contained in the same one-page form, requiring distinct signatures from both the *Operator* and the *Contractor*. Because all *forest practices* require a notification regardless of slash management implications that is the term used in this document.

A total of 2427 *Notifications* were submitted statewide in **2014** for operations on **private and endowment forestland**. This is a 12.4% increase from the 2,160 *Notifications* submitted in 2013. *Table 1* below shows a breakout of *Notifications* submitted from 2007 through 2014. The *Notifications* data is listed by IDL **Fire Protection Districts** (not by IDL Supervisory Areas). Looking forward, favorable market forecasts indicate IDL should expect a continued rise in the number of *Notifications* as timber markets remain strong. The increased activity will lead to an increased work load for PFSs.

Table 1.

2007 to 2014								
Forest Practices Notifications/Hazard Management Agreements (Compliances)								
Fire Prot. District	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Priest Lake	109	75	39	49	42	40	43	39
Kootenai Valley	336	295	111	152	149	168	244	233
Mica	598	377	195	262	260	216	267	284
Pend Oreille	884	578	295	408	380	438	521	649
Cataldo	189	89	60	70	65	81	106	97
St. Joe	493	321	210	263	340	333	356	452
Ponderosa	255	157	71	120	121	99	120	141
Maggie Creek	106	62	27	59	47	41	50	84
Craig Mountain	120	61	49	72	59	74	50	62
Southwest	51	21	25	30	30	45	61	41
Eastern Idaho	16	9	3	7	6	4	5	10
SITPA	102	46	35	65	63	94	80	78
CPTPA	259	175	162	233	259	226	257	257
TOTAL	3518	2266	1282	1790	1821	1859	2160	2427

2007-2013 operations conducted on both state and private forestlands.

Forest Practices Notifications – New Process for Endowment Lands

In late 2014 IDL introduced a new process for issuing notifications and facilitating FPA inspections on IDL managed state owned (includes endowment) forestlands in a manner *consistent* with the way those activities are conducted on *private* lands. Previously, only *state* timber sale activities were issued *Notifications*. Starting with the fourth quarter of 2014 IDL has transitioned to a process whereby all state forest management activities are issued *Notifications* for *forest practices* defined activities in a manner consistent with the way *private* operations are. *Table 2* shows the number of *Notifications* issued to both *state* and *private* entities by fire protection district. In 2014 **128** *Notifications* were issued for activities on *state* lands. It is anticipated that the number of *Notifications* will increase in 2015 with all forest management activities on *state* lands now providing *Notifications*.

Table 2.

2014			
Notifications/Hazard Management Agreements			
(Compliances)			
By Type			
Fire Prot. District	2014 Private	2014 State	2014 Total
Priest Lake	26	13	39
Kootenai Valley	230	3	233
Mica	280	4	284
Pend Oreille	641	8	649
Cataldo	96	1	97
St. Joe	435	17	452
Ponderosa	132	9	141
Maggie Creek	77	7	84
Craig Mountain	60	2	62
Southwest	39	2	41
Eastern Idaho	7	3	10
SITPA	72	6	78
CPTPA	<u>204</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>257</u>
TOTAL	2299	128	2427

State and Private Forestlands—Notification and Compliance Submissions

A total of **2,299** *Notifications* were submitted on **private lands** for **2014**. These include all *commercial operations*, *non-commercial operations which generate slash*, and *cost-shared activities* which constitute a *forest practice*. *Notifications* totaled in this **private lands** category include operations conducted on industrial and non-industrial private forestlands.

Individual Operations Inspected

There were **1,239 distinct operations** (*forest practices*) that were inspected in 2014. A comparison of distinct *operations* inspected in 2013 and 2014 is shown in *Figure 1*. Of these 1,239 total distinct *operations* receiving at least one inspection, 1,220 received inspection reports in which all aspects of the operation were deemed *satisfactory* and in compliance with the Forest Practices Rules for a compliance rate of **98.5%**. Only 19 operations received at least one inspection report in which at least one *unsatisfactory condition* (rule infraction) was issued. A total of 28 unsatisfactory inspections occurred on these 19 operations.

Of the 2,427 notifications in 2014, 1,239 of those operations were inspected at least once resulting in approximately 51% of all operations being inspected in 2014, exceeding IDL's statewide goal of inspecting 50% of the operations with a *Notification* on file. Only 25 operations were inspected out of 128 notifications (19.5%) on *state* lands, because the program was not initiated until late in the year. This means that 1,214 *private* operations were inspected out of 2,299 notifications (52.8%).

(Note: Many of the 2014 inspections were performed on sites with Notifications submitted in previous years, and many of the late-year Notifications did not receive inspections until after the start of 2015. However, this year-to-year carry-over remains somewhat constant over the years, and IDL consistently looks at the number of inspected operations compared to the total number of private-forestland Notifications submitted.)

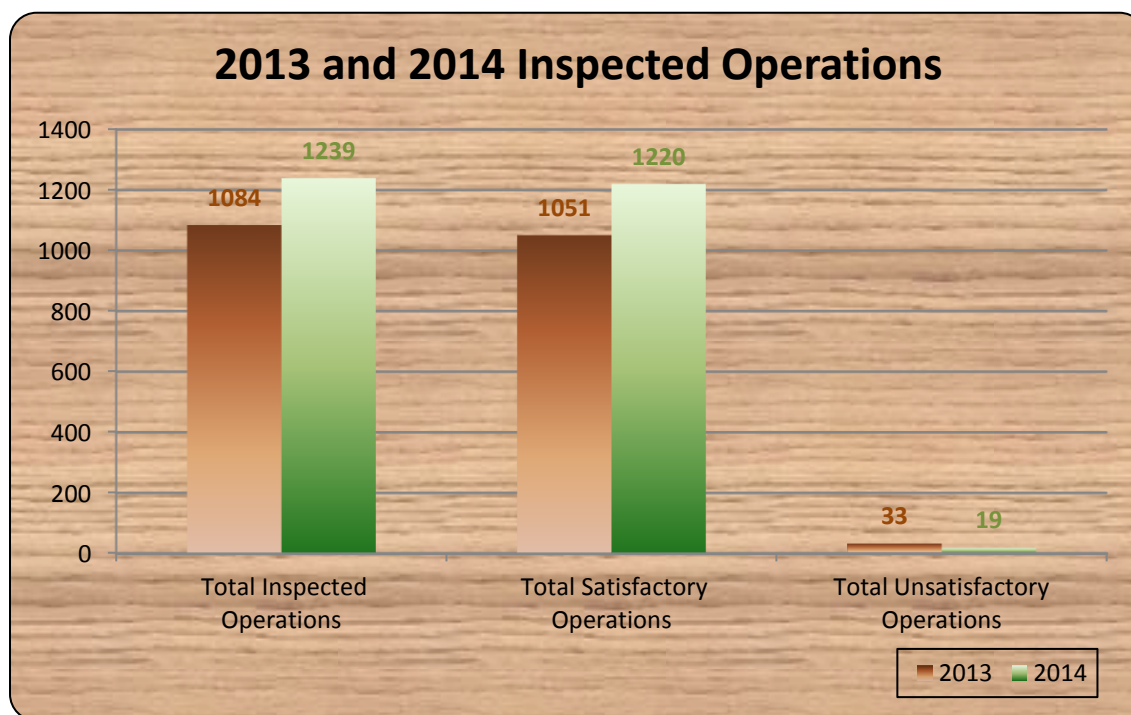


Figure 1 – Comparison of Inspected Operations in 2013–2014.

Frequency and Location of Inspections

Once the Forest Practices *Notification* request is filed with the local IDL Office, the Private Forestry Specialist (PFS) begins the process of scheduling on-site inspections. The current goal is to inspect at least 50% of all forest-practice operations that have a *Notification* on file. Inspections may be performed multiple times on the same operation, depending on the observed site conditions and/or upon *request* of the *Operator* or *Landowner*. *Notifications* indicating the presence of a Class I stream in or adjacent to the operational area will trigger the PFS to conduct inspections at a higher frequency. Depending on the characteristics of any particular operation, PFSs may use other site-specific criteria to prioritize inspections, including the presence of Class II streams, unstable soils or slopes greater than 45% in gradient. PFSs place the highest inspection priorities on the notifications with the highest potential for FPA related issues.

With the new process for issuing notifications and facilitating FPA inspections on *state* forestlands, Private Forestry Specialists (PFSs) will carry out inspections on *state* lands with the same frequency and methodology used to inspect operations on *private* lands. Historically this report has not included inspection data collected from *state* lands, that data was collected and tracked separately. It is IDL's intention to create a consistent system to present Forest Practices Rule compliance data on *state* forestlands similar to rule compliance data collected from *private* forestlands in this report. With the limited data collected from inspections on endowment operations in late 2014 it appears that IDL is achieving that goal.

During 2014, IDL PFSs and assistants performed **1,508** total Forest Practices inspections on distinct operations of *state and private* forestlands. *Figure 2* shows a spatial representation of all Forest Practices inspections performed in 2014, broken out by IDL Supervisory Area. The total number of inspection reports includes repeat and follow-up inspections on the same operation resulting in many more inspections than operations.

(Note: Discrepancies between 2013 totals reflected in Figures 1,3,4,5, and 6, and the 2013 totals listed in the 2013 Forest Practices Year-End Report are a result of 2013 inspection-report submissions that occurred after the publication and distribution of the 2013 report.)

2014 FPA Inspections

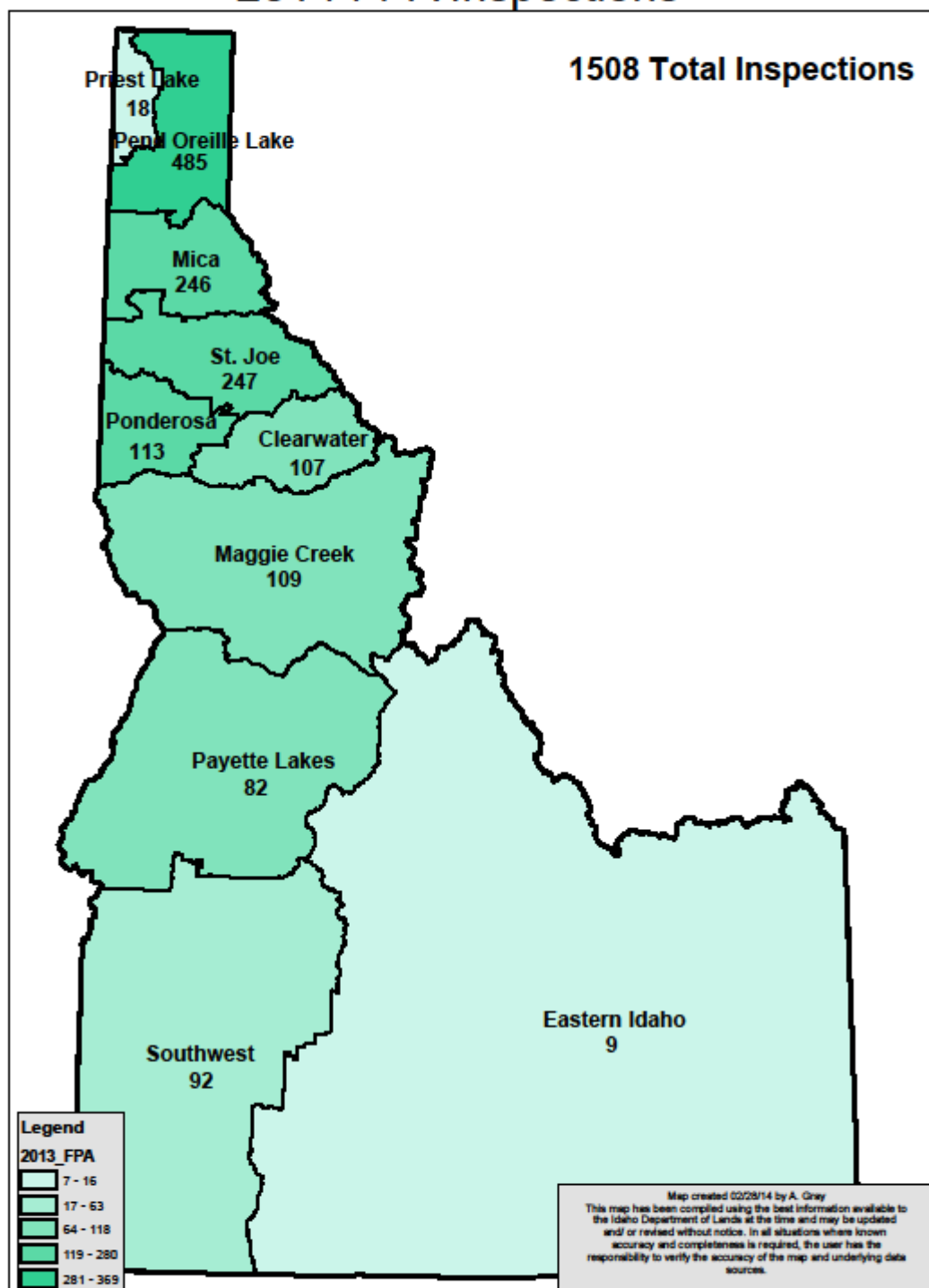


Figure 2 – Inspections by area.

Rule Compliance

Figure 3 shows a comparison of the total number of 2013 and 2014 Forest Practices inspections performed, and also the breakdown of those inspections into satisfactory reports (inspection reports indicating compliance with all rules inspected) and unsatisfactory reports (inspection reports indicating an infraction of at least one rule). In 2014, **1,508** total forest practices inspections were performed on operations conducted on *private* and *state* lands.

The data shows that, out of the **1,508** total inspections performed in 2014, the number of inspection reports containing all-satisfactory conditions was **1,480** (*Total Satisfactory Inspections*); this demonstrates that over **98%** of all inspections performed in 2014 were in compliance with the Forest Practices Rules (including sites that were found satisfactory in post-unsatisfactory inspections after they were brought into compliance through remediation). This rule-compliance rate is the highest ever recorded in Idaho. This total number of inspections (1,508) encompasses *all* inspections, including inspections performed multiple times on the same operation and the 28 inspections performed on *state* lands. Within these 1,508 performed inspections, the number of inspections that resulted in reports indicating at least one unsatisfactory condition totaled 28 – less than 2% of the total inspections performed. Even if the inspections carried out on *state* lands are removed from the total; the compliance rate for inspection reports remains over 98%.

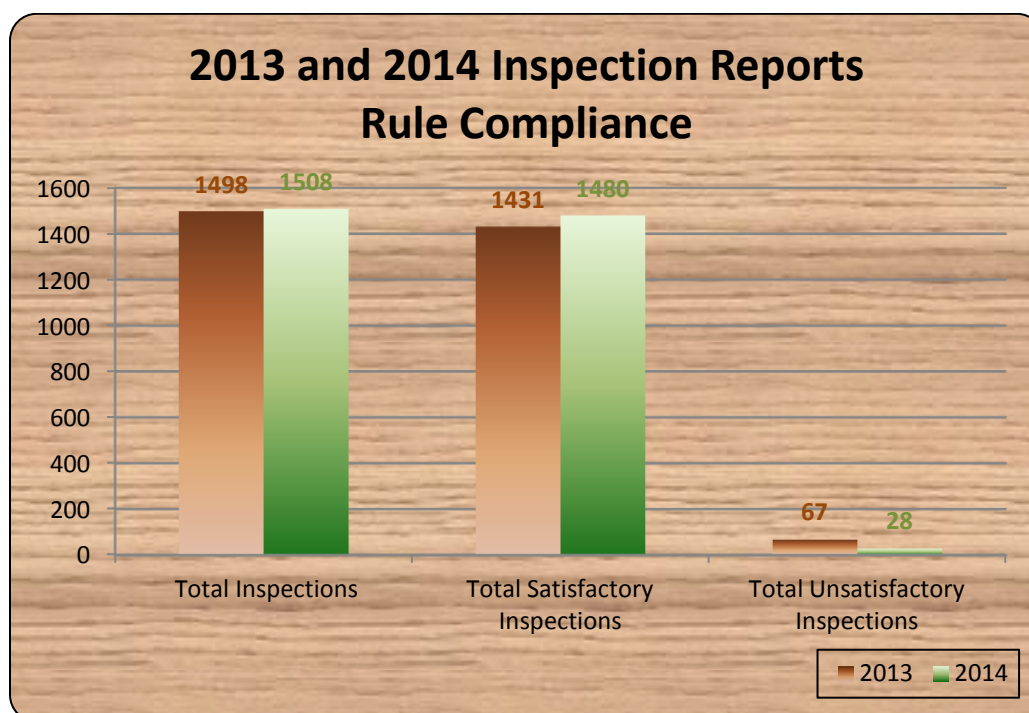


Figure 3 – Comparison of Inspection Reports Rule Compliance in 2013-2014.

Figure 4 shows a comparison of the total number of inspections carried out by ownership category in 2014. In 2014 there were 28 inspections carried out by PFSs on IDL managed timberlands none of those inspections resulted in any unsatisfactory conditions being noted. The total number of inspections conducted on *private* lands was **1,480**. Without considering the 28 satisfactory inspection reports conducted on IDL managed lands, the inspection report compliance rate on *private* timberlands remains over 98%.

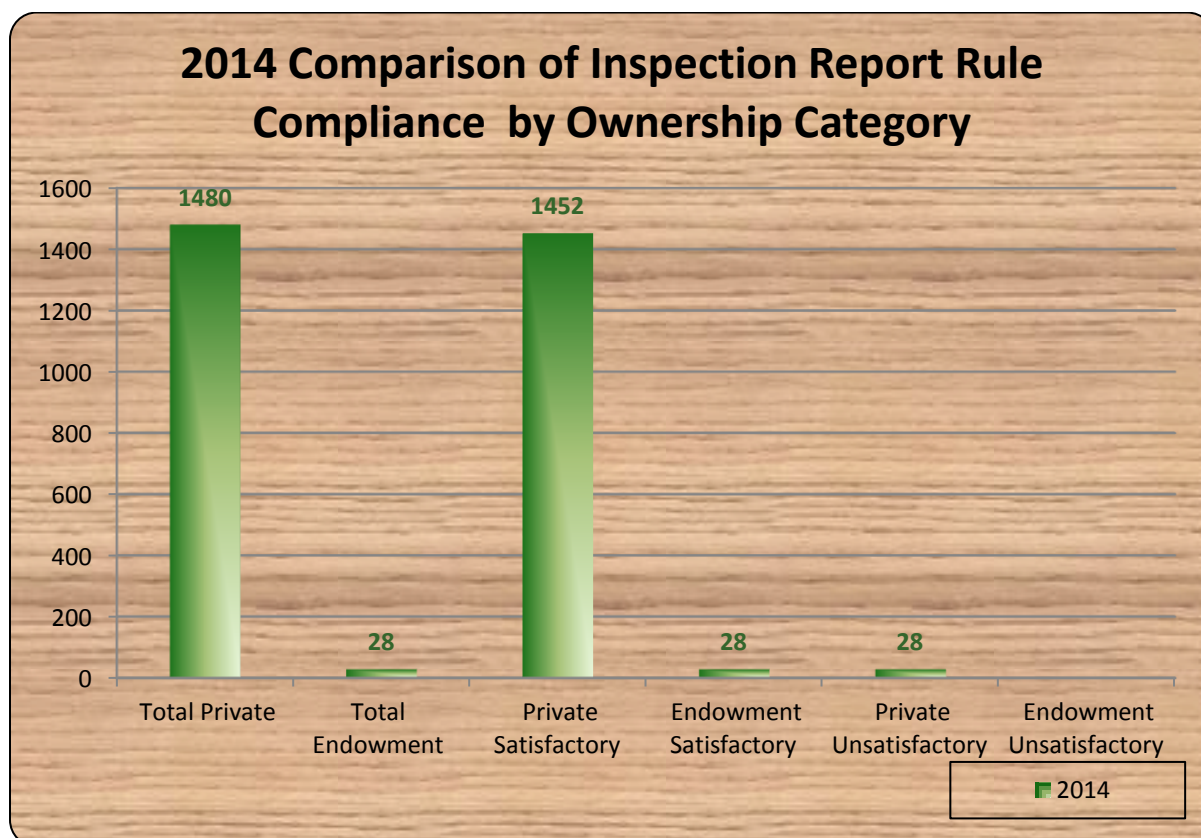


Figure 4 – Comparison of Inspection Report Rule Compliance by Ownership Category in 2014.

Because the new program for FPA inspections on *state* forestlands wasn't initiated until late 2014, there is a relatively small data set available for comparison. There will be more data available in the future now that the program will be fully implemented in 2015. This will create opportunities to compare activities on *state* and *private* lands, year over year with consistency. Within a few years IDL anticipates rolling out a new enterprise database system that will enable the department to further stratify data and provide additional comparisons so that we can better determine where weaknesses occur and address them more specifically.

Figure 5 shows the frequency and types of individual rules that were violated in these *unsatisfactory* reports. (To see the individual administrative rules listed, visit this site to view the Forest Practices Rules: <http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/20/0201.pdf>) Within the 28 unsatisfactory inspection reports, there were a total of 92 different rule infractions cited. The most frequently infringed rules were the IDAPA 20.02.01.030.07 *Stream Protection* rules (22% of infringed rules), and the IDAPA 20.02.01.030.04 *Location of Landings and Skid Trails* rules (20% of infringed rules). The number of *Stream Protection* rules infringed has dropped significantly from 50 in 2013 to 20 in 2014, showing a sharp decline of non-compliant equipment, road and skid trail usage within the Stream Protection Zone (SPZ). At least part of the improvement can be credited to IDL emphasizing stream protection rules during LEAP training sessions provided by the University of Idaho Extension Program as well as whenever opportunities to emphasize stream protection rules to operators became available.

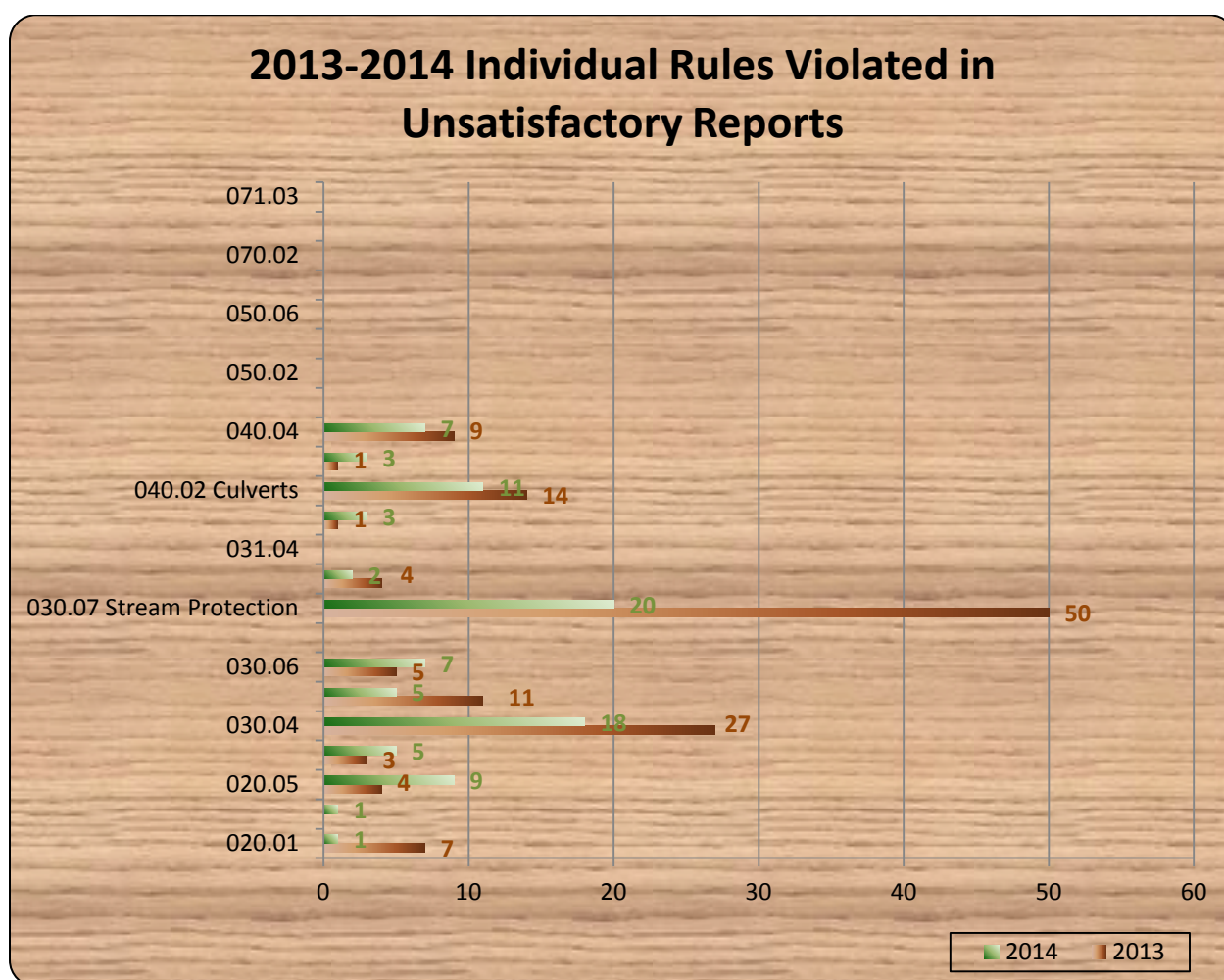


Figure 5 - Comparison of Individual Rules Violated in 2013-2014.

Attributes of Inspected Operations

The focus of the Idaho Forest Practices Act is to protect water quality. To ensure that we are placing the greatest emphasis on protecting this resource the Idaho Department of Lands PFSs prioritize inspections of operations based in part on a simple risk assessment. Higher priority for inspection is given to operations containing Class I (fish-bearing or domestic use) streams, followed by secondary prioritization of operations containing Class II streams. Other criteria can also play a role in prioritizing operations for inspection including steep slopes, highly erodible soils and others. *Figure 6* shows the number of inspected *operations* being performed in areas containing (or adjacent to) Class I or Class II streams as well as some of the other attributes used to determine inspection priorities. Of the 1,239 total (distinct) *operations* inspected, 328 (26%) of the operational areas contained at least one Class I stream, and 672 (54%) contained a Class II stream. As these data show, it is not unusual for one operational area to contain both Class I and Class II streams, as well as other criteria. *Figure 6* exhibits the specific site attributes of the inspected areas. Much of the increase in the Conversion in Use category can likely be attributed to burned areas in southern Idaho that will not be replanted with trees following salvage operations due to the tenuous nature of the 'forest' in these areas. The highest inspection priority is always given to requested pre-work meetings, the department firmly believes it is far better to prevent problems rather than address them after the fact.

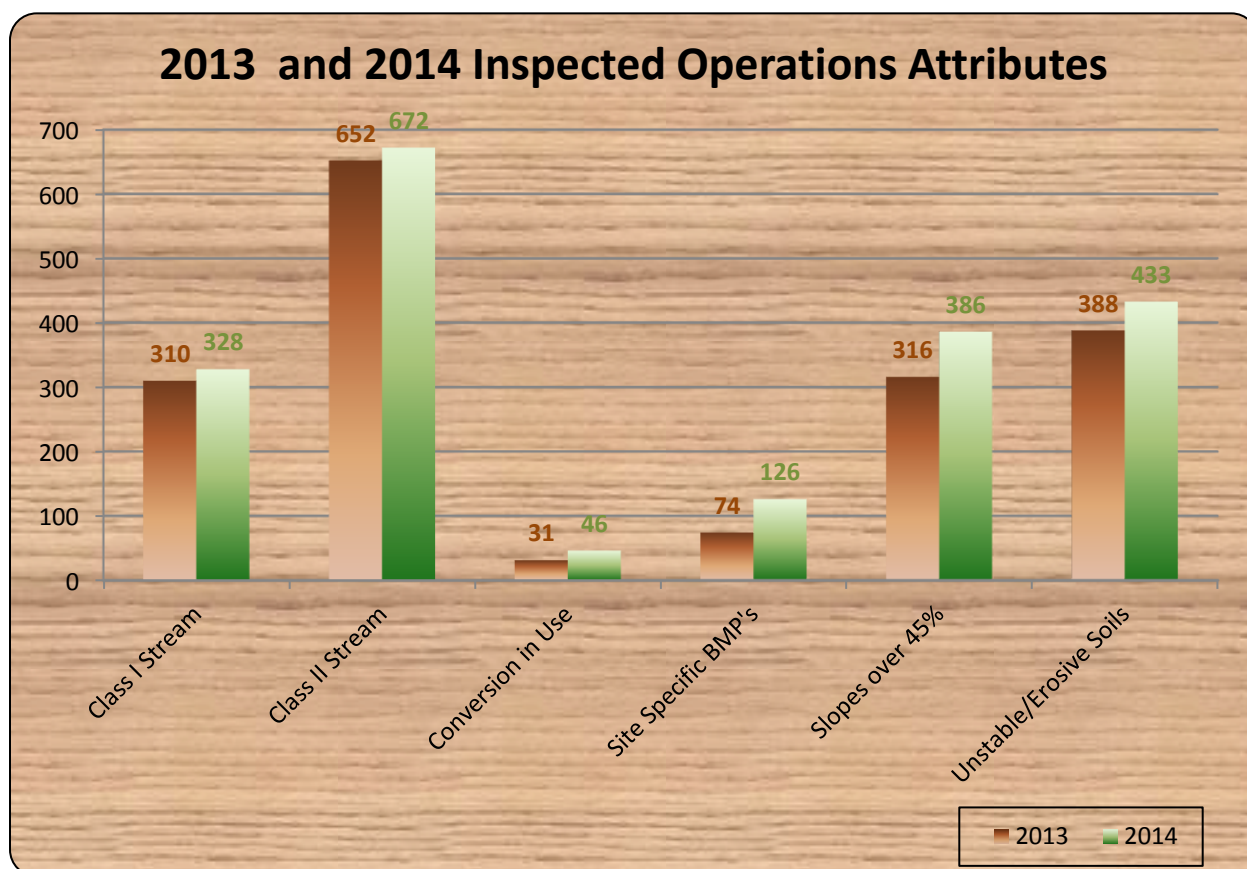


Figure 6 – Comparison of the Attributes of all Inspected Operations in 2013 - 2014.

The intent of the new program for conducting FPA inspections on IDL managed *state* lands is to conduct inspections on these properties in a manner consistent with the way the same inspections are carried out on *private* lands. The first step in achieving that consistency is to select sites for inspection using the same decision process. *Figures 7 and 8* depict the Inspected Operations Attributes of the inspected operations on *private* lands and *state* lands respectively. While the two data sets are very different in size the similarity of the graphs demonstrates that the sites selected for inspection on *state* lands appears to be consistent with the sites chosen for inspection on *private* lands.

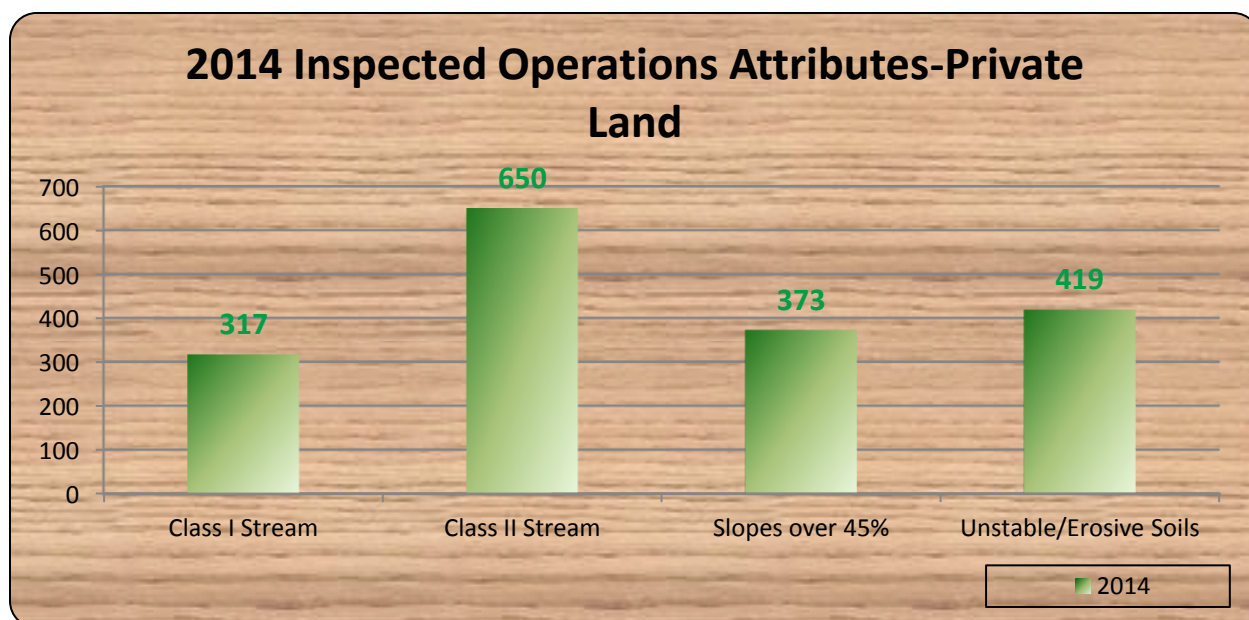


Figure 7 – Inspected Operations Attributes on Private Land

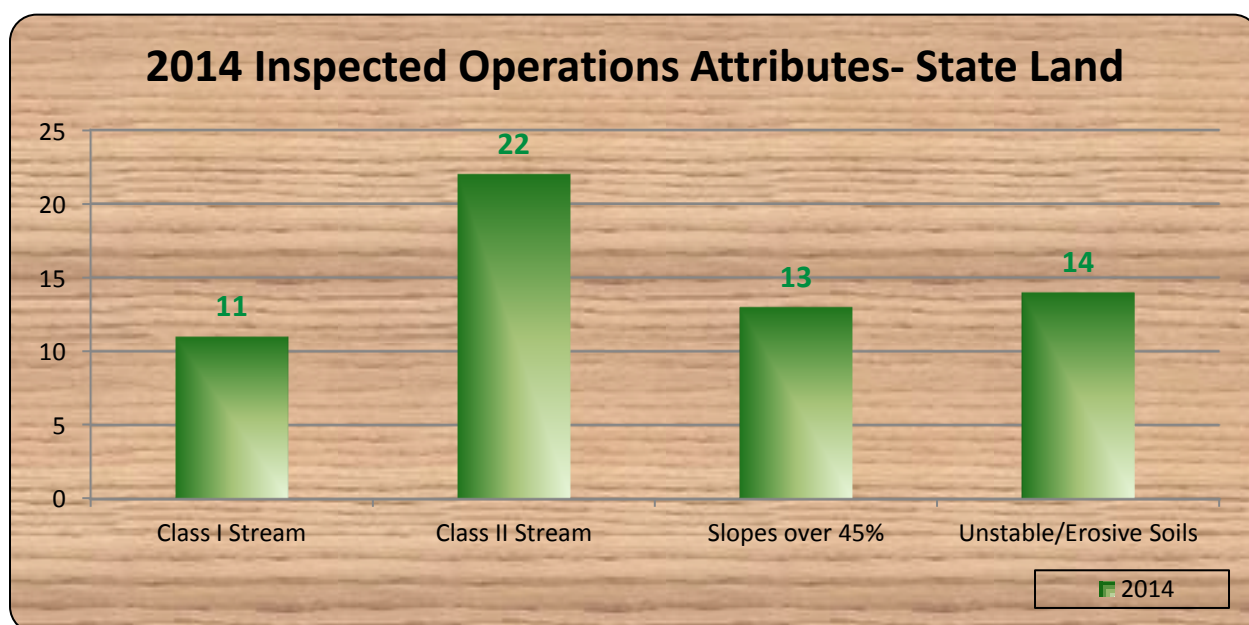


Figure 8 – Inspected Operations Attributes on State (IDL managed) Land

Notices of Violation

A Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued when repeated unsatisfactory conditions and/or severe resource degradation are observed during an inspection. An NOV can also be issued if an operator fails to perform the prescribed mitigation for an unsatisfactory condition within the time frame given by IDL. In 2014 only one NOV was issued. In that case the operator failed to recognize a class II stream and repeatedly crossed the streambed and operated equipment within the boundaries of the SPZ. The NOV was issued following the inspection because the activities reached the level of multiple and repeated unsatisfactory conditions and a potential of significant resource degradation. Following issuance of the NOV the operator was able to complete the prescribed mitigation within one month and the NOV was cleared.

The issuance of only one NOV shows that the overall number of issuances remains very low and is consistent with the trend that has shown very low issuance numbers for the past seven years. *Figure 9* shows the number of NOVs issued per year since 2007.

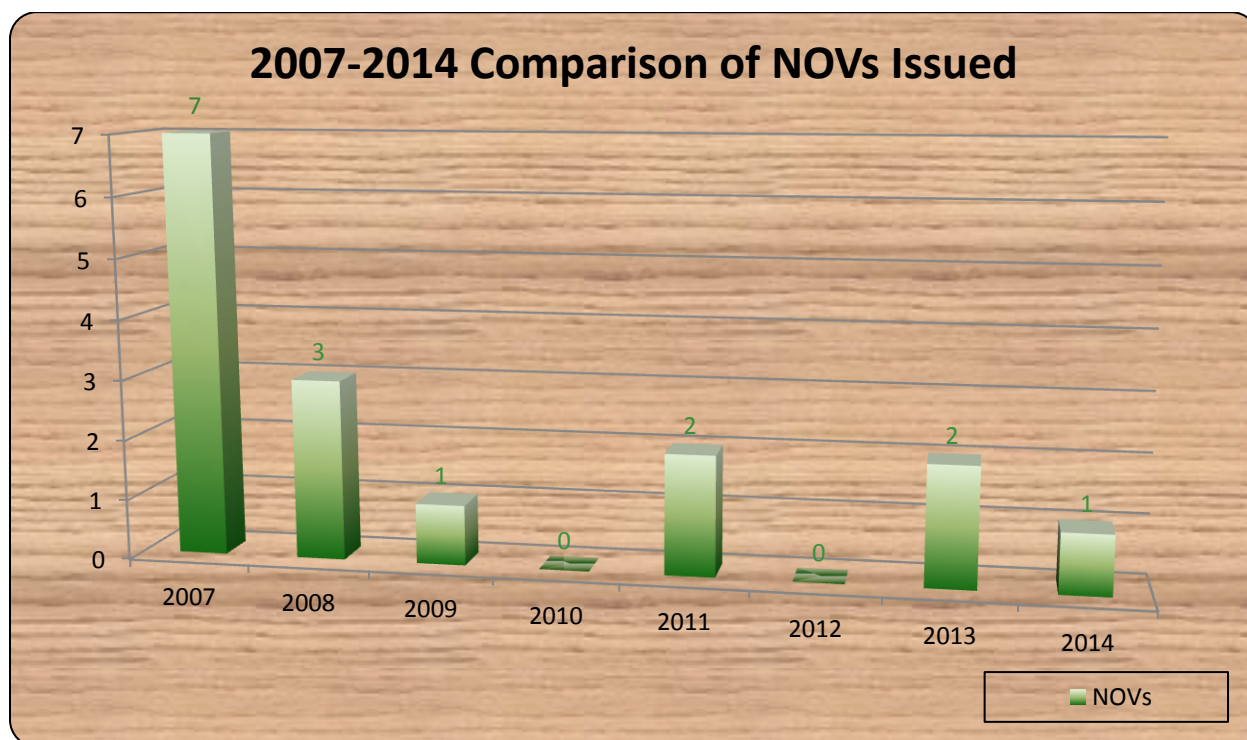


Figure 9 – Comparison of NOVs issued from 2007 through 2014.

Complaints Made to IDL

While operations are commencing on *private* forestlands, neighboring landowners, individuals from nearby communities or interested organizations occasionally voice concerns or complaints to personnel at their local IDL Offices. These complaints are usually fielded and addressed by IDL Private Forestry Specialists (PFSs). Complaints range from perceptions of resource degradation to concerns over aesthetics.

The PFSs analyze each complaint and decide whether or not the complaint can be addressed by checking compliance with the Forest Practices Rules; if so, a site visit is usually performed. Sixty eight (68) FPA-related complaints were fielded by IDL Offices (mostly by PFSs) in 2014. Forty five (45) of these complaints were addressed with an in-office explanation (on the phone or in-person); twenty three (23) of these complaints were responded to with an in-the-field site visit. The number of FPA-related complaints received by each IDL Supervisory Area is shown in *Figure 10*.

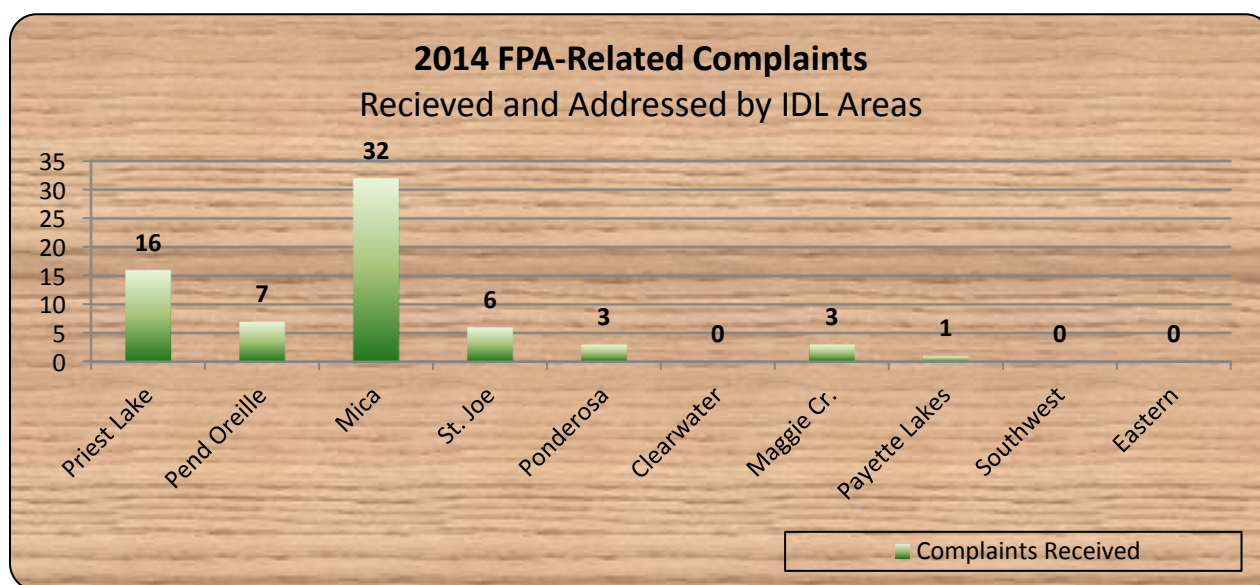


Figure 10 – FPA Related Complaints received in 2014 by Area.

While each area has not always tracked complaints in exactly the same way there is consistency in year over year reporting within the areas. The overall number of complaints fell significantly from 115 in 2013 and 129 in 2012 to 68 in 2014. in spite of the 12% increase in the number of *Notifications* from 2013 to 2014. A substantial reduction was found in the Mica (Mica + Cataldo) area, where in 2012, 70 complaints were recorded in the two areas; in 2013 the number of complaints dropped to 46; and then in 2014 the number dropped to just 32. In addition Priest Lake dropped from 36 in 2013 to 16 in 2014.

Variances

Under the Forest Practices rules IDL may grant a *variance* when an *Operator* demonstrates that acting under a modification of, or variance from, a Forest Practices Rule will result in no additional resource degradation and that the variant action is necessary to successfully complete the *forest practice*. A *variance* is only granted when it is shown that an activity done in non-compliance with a rule will result in equal or better resource protection than operating within full compliance with the rules. Each *variance* request is carefully analyzed by an IDL Private Forestry Specialist. A final decision regarding the granting of a *variance* is made by the IDL Area Manager after consulting with the Private Forestry Specialist. Many requests for a variance are denied and others are withdrawn by the applicant after they learn that the additional practices that may be required by the IDL in order to provide greater resource protection may make the variance less attractive than full compliance with the rule. *Figure 11* shows a 2013-2014 comparison of the number of variances granted statewide. 76 variances were issued on all forestland operations in 2014, up significantly from 65 in 2013. The primary reason for the increase is the addition of 8 variances recorded on IDL managed lands during the second half of 2014. Without the addition of 8 variances issued on IDL managed lands the increase would have been negligible. Beginning in mid 2014 all variances granted on IDL managed lands are included in this report. In prior years the IDL would follow the same procedures for issuing variances on IDL projects but rarely reported the activities to be included this report. In the future all of the variances issued across ownership types will be included in this report.

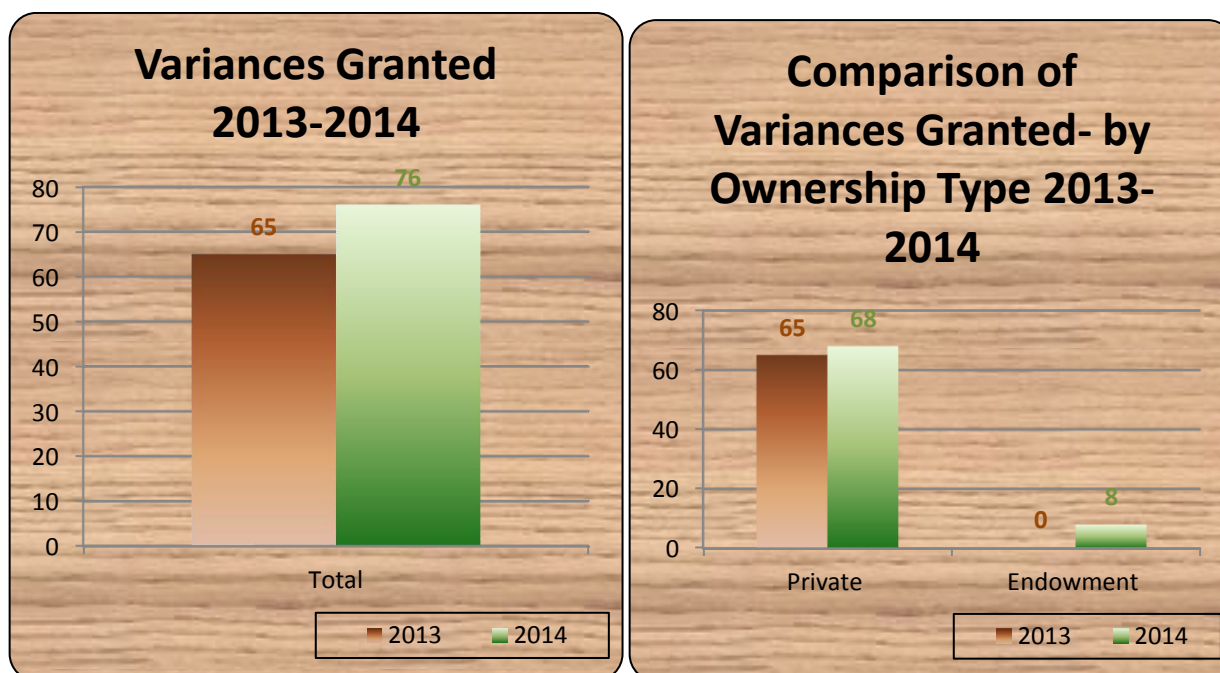


Figure 11 and 12 – Comparison of Variances Granted in 2013-2014 and Comparison of Variances Granted across ownership type.

Figure 13 illustrates the types of rules from which variances were granted. Most requests for variances deal with the desire to use existing trails or roads within a Stream Protection Zone. Variances of this nature were only granted if it was demonstrated to IDL that use of existing roads or skid trails (within the protected riparian area) was necessary to carry out the operation, that it would result in no additional degradation to the soils, water quality and fish habitat within the watershed, and that the use of these trails (or roads) would result in less sediment delivery than constructing new transportation systems outside of the Stream Protection Zone. Note: Often when a variance is granted more than one rule is included in the variance because the activity is often regulated by more than one rule. For example to reopen a road that lies partially within an SPZ the operator at a minimum will need to request a variance from IDAPA 20.02.01.030.07.c (operation of ground based equipment within an SPZ) and from IDAPA 20.02.01.040.02.h (reconstruction of existing roads located in SPZs) for a single activity. The result is a difference in the number of rules varied being greater than the total number of variances granted.

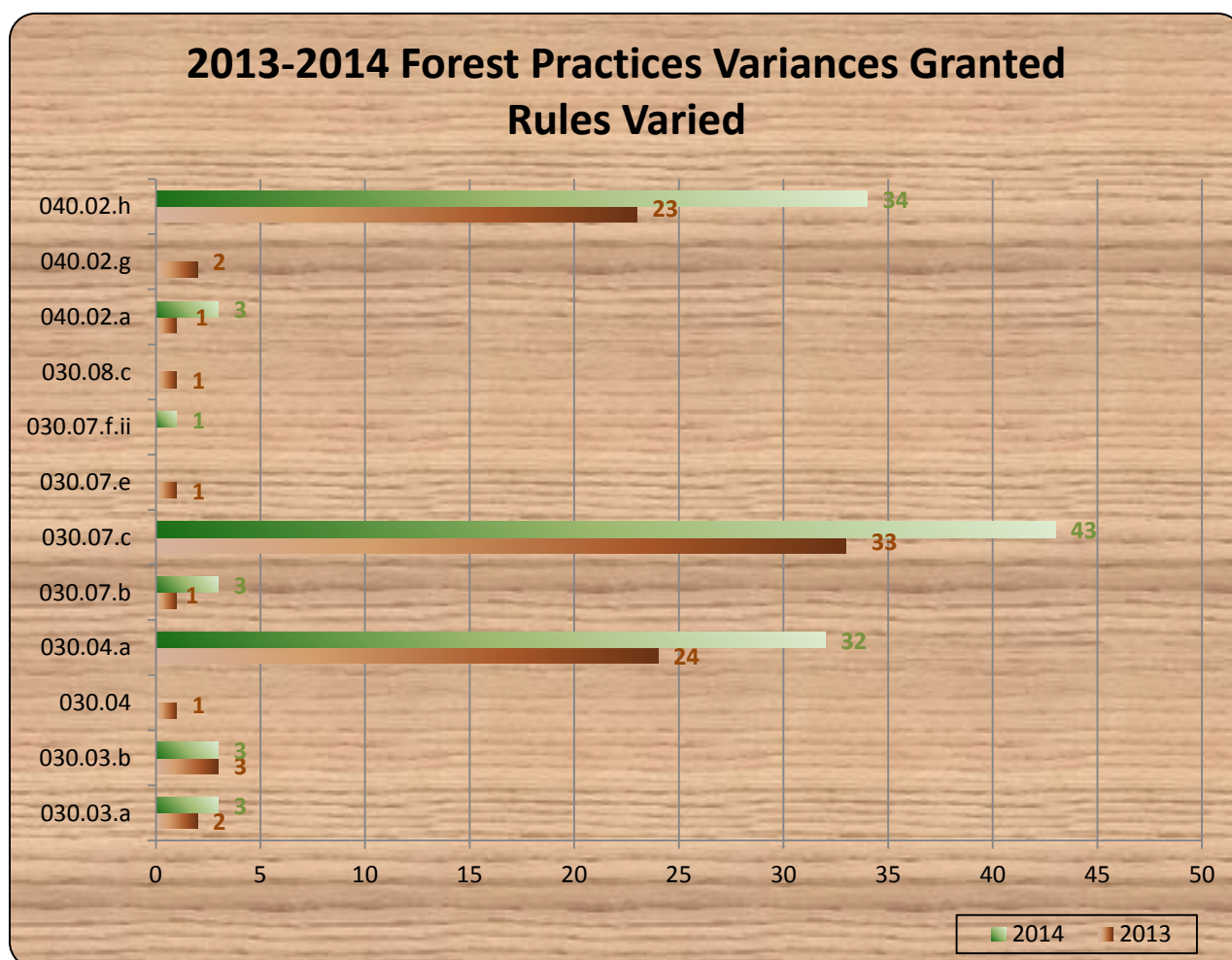


Figure 13 – Comparison of Rules for which Variances were granted 2013-2014 across all ownership types.

Figure 14 provides a comparison of variances issued on *state* lands with those issued on *private* lands. The relatively low number of variances issued on *state* lands (eight) makes it difficult to draw a solid correlation between the two ownership types but the graph does pretty clearly show that there are no significant anomalies between the data sets. This means that given the relatively small data set it appears that IDL is doing well achieving its objective of holding its own activities to the same standards that everyone else must attain.

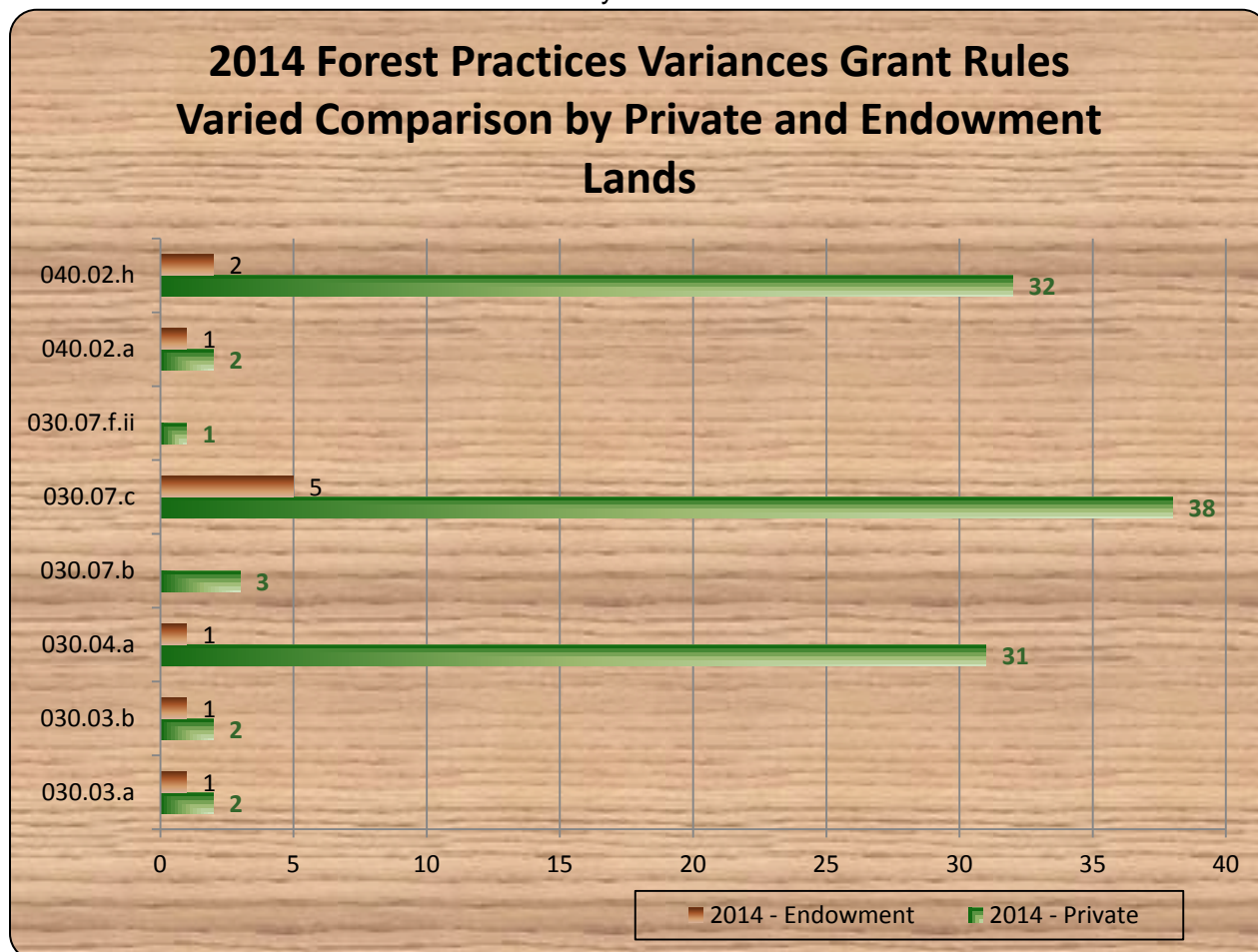


Figure 14 – Comparison of Rules for which Variances were granted between ownership types.

NOTE: IDL had been using the same criteria for granting variances and was even using essentially the same form before the new policy became effective in mid 2014, but there was no reporting mechanism in place, so the variances often were not reported. With the change in policy all variances will be included in this report going forward.

The Streamside Tree Retention Rules

The Idaho Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee (FPAAC) members, after many years of collaborative work with IDL, scientists, and the interests they represent, developed substantive rule changes for promulgation in 2013. These rule amendments were the result of FPAAC's responses to concerns raised in IDEQ Audits in 2000 and 2004 about the class I tree retention rules or "shade rules". The old shade rule required operators to; "Leave seventy-five percent (75%) of the current shade over the Class I streams." Additionally there were standing tree requirements intended to provide large organic debris (LOD) recruitment for streams as trees die and fall into the stream channel to provide critical structure. IDEQ identified three areas of concern regarding the existing shade rules:

- There was no set minimum level of shade,
- There was no scientific basis for the tree retention requirement,
- The current rule may allow re-entry without adequate shade recovery.

In 2012, FPAAC developed a new shade rule and IDL began the rule promulgation process. Following proposed rulemaking, FPAAC withdrew the proposal due to concerns raised during the public comment process. After additional modeling and analysis, the rule was revised to address the issues and was re-introduced for promulgation in 2013. Following approval by the Land Board in April, 2013, negotiated rulemaking began in June to amend the Forest Practices Rules. Proposed rulemaking was then conducted in September, and Land Board adoption of the now revised shade rules occurred on November 19th 2013. The shade rule was approved by the Idaho House and Senate natural resource committees in January, 2014, and received legislative approval at the end of the legislative session. The new rules went into effect **July 1, 2014**. (See Appendix 1 for rule changes)

A common theme within the comments received during the rule process was a desire to develop a monitoring program to determine the effectiveness of the rule upon implementation. To this end, a working group was formed to design an appropriate monitoring program. The FPAAC, working with IDEQ, decided to ask the University of Idaho to develop a monitoring program that would test the rule to determine actual shade impacts. It is anticipated the U of I will deliver its rule monitoring program recommendations during the spring of 2015.

The updated rule allows forest landowners/managers to select from two options which offer greater flexibility in managing lands. IDL believes these rule changes reflect a careful balance and integration of diverse forestry interests in addition to being biologically and operationally sound while being economically viable for all forestland owners and managers. A comprehensive training program began in 2014 and is continuing with training sessions and presentations provided by IDL staff to loggers, foresters and landowners. Additional training opportunities will be provided in 2015; including "Twilight Field Tours" designed to give people the opportunity to participate in demonstrating the rule on the ground.

Stream Channel Alteration Projects Administered by IDL

In accordance with an MOU between IDL and the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), IDL Private Forestry Specialists have the conditional authority to approve and administer applications for culvert, bridge and ford installations, re-installations and removals on *private* lands. The conditions under which IDL has this authority are; the stream-channel alteration projects are part of a defined *forest practice*, the stream is perennial, and the stream-crossing structures meet certain size limitations and installation criteria.

Forty nine (49) total stream-channel alteration applications were received and approved by IDL statewide in 2014. A project application, submitted to IDL on a supplemental notification form, may contain multiple installations in close proximity to each other (e.g., three culvert installations on one stream segment within one operational unit). The 49 permits accepted in 2014 referenced activity at 83 crossings. Many of these crossings were temporary in nature and were removed at the end of the operation. Several others involved the removal or replacement of older crossing structures. *Figure 15* shows the number of stream-channel-alteration projects reviewed, administered and inspected by each IDL Area Office in 2014.

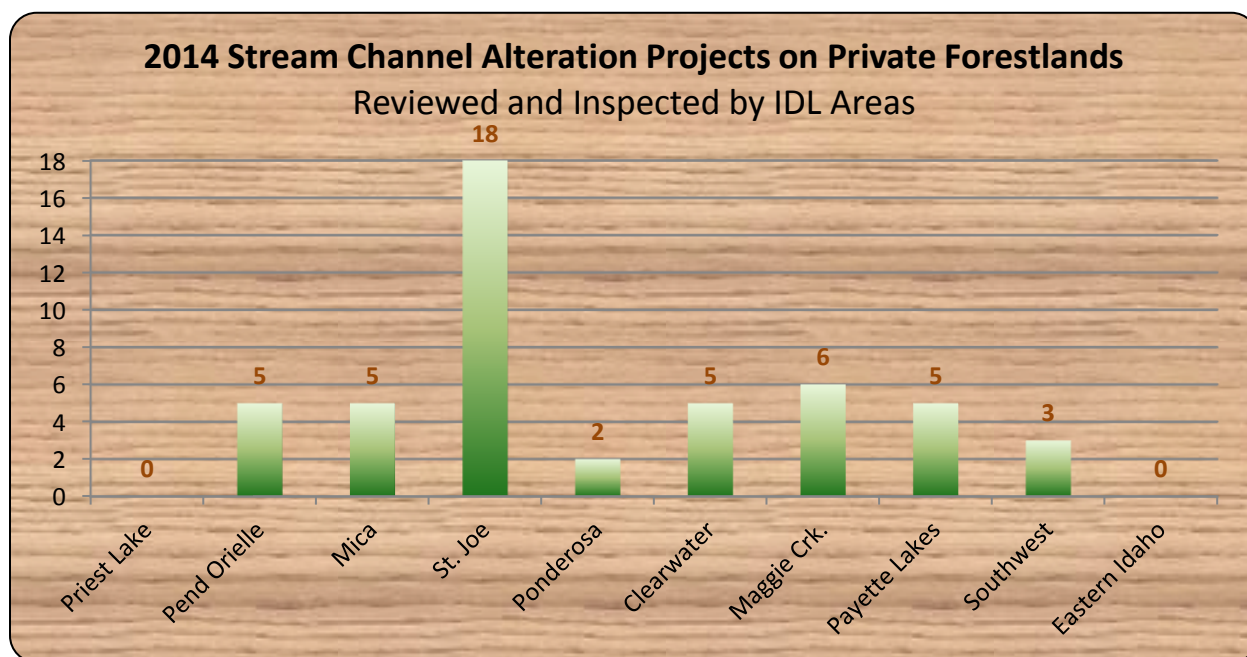


Figure 15 – Stream Channel Alteration Permits on Private Forestlands by Area.

Conclusion

During 2014 IDL developed an updated form for use by *Operators* to submit *Notification of Forest Practices*. The new forms will be implemented in mid 2015 with the changes largely centered on clarifying roles and responsibilities of parties under the FPA and slash hazard management rules.

Having an educated workforce contributes to sustaining the high levels of compliance we see today. The IDL Forest Practices Program continues to assist University of Idaho Extension Foresters with their *Logger Education to Advance Professionalism* (LEAP) training sessions. These sessions have provided targeted education to loggers, enhancing awareness of the Forest Practices Rules and needed compliance with these Best Management Practices. These classes continue to be well attended and up-to-date in addressing current forest-practices issues and rule changes which affect loggers.

During 2015 IDL will continue to present programs explaining the new shade rule at events geared toward IDL personnel, foresters, landowners, and loggers. Private Forestry Specialists will prioritize training and assistance with implementation of the new rule in their activities.

Additionally, under the supervision of IDL the University of Idaho is developing an updated Idaho Forestry BMP Field Guide. This update will also include an educational companion video and development of a new BMP website. The Idaho Forest Products Commission has also been retained to provide additional BMP educational opportunities throughout the state and to develop and host BMP education via electronic media.

During 2014 IDL received legislative approval to restore three full time PFS positions to the organization due to the anticipated increase in workload. PFS positions in Cataldo, St. Maries and Maggie Creek were also restored. In addition, the part time PFS position in Kootenai Valley has been restored to a full time position. These restorations are in part intended to assist with the additional workload anticipated as IDL implements FPA inspections on *state* lands plus providing additional assistance to landowners for the implementation of the new streamside tree retention (shade) rules.

It is clear that the high level of compliance with the Forest Practices Rules that has been achieved and maintained is the result of many contributing factors. The participation of most of Idaho's larger industrial forestland owners in forest certification systems (either *Sustainable Forestry Initiative* (SFI) or *Forest Stewardship Council* (FSC)) has clearly had a very positive influence on compliance rates. These industrial forestland owners strive to remain in full compliance with both the Forest Practices Rules and the standards set forth by their certification organizations.

Appendix 1

Forest Practices Rule Changes **(Effective, July 1, 2014)**

1) Addition of Definitions of Forest Types (Subsection) 20.02.010.24.

24. Forest Type. Five forest types in Idaho are defined as follows:

a. North Idaho grand fir/western redcedar (NIGF): moist to wet interior forests with western redcedar, western hemlock, and grand fir being primary climax species, found in forests north of the Clearwater and Lochsa Rivers.

b. Central Idaho grand fir/western redcedar (CIGF): productive conifer forests found in forests between the Lochsa River Basin and the Salmon River, characterized by stands having western redcedar and grand fir as climax species, with a mixed-conifer overstory increasingly comprised of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and larch in the river breaks canyon-lands. Stocking levels are generally lower than that of the NIGF stands.

c. South Idaho grand fir (SIGF): mixed-conifer forests, dominated by ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, found south of the Salmon River with grand fir and occasionally western redcedar being the stand climax species.

d. Western hemlock-subalpine fir (WH): higher-elevation, moist, cool interior forests dominated by western hemlock, mountain hemlock, and/or subalpine fir.

e. Douglas-fir-ponderosa pine (PP): drier forests dominated by ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, generally found in lower-elevation, dry sites.

2) Addition of a Definition for Relative Stocking (Subsection) 20.02.010.48.

48. Relative Stocking. A measure of site occupancy calculated as a ratio comparison of actual stand density to the biological maximum density for a given forest type. This ratio expressed as a percentage shows the extent to which trees utilize a plot of forestland.

3) Changes to Rule (Subparagraph) 20.02.030.07.e.i.

i. Leave shrubs, grasses, and rocks wherever they afford shade over stream or maintain the integrity of the soil near a stream. (10-14-75)

4) Replacement of Rule (Subparagraph) 20.02.030.07.e.ii.

ii. Adjacent to all Class I streams, to maintain and enhance shade and large woody debris recruitment, landowners must comply with one of the two following options defining tree retention. The Relative Stocking per acre (RS) referenced in the options is calculated according to the relative-stocking-contribution table in Subsection 030.07.e.ii.

(1) Option 1: Within twenty-five (25) feet from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the stream, live conifers and hardwoods will be retained to maintain a minimum relative stocking per acre of sixty (60). A relative stocking per acre of thirty (30) must be retained in the stream protection zone between twenty-five (25) feet and seventy-five (75) feet from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the stream.

(2) Option 2: Within fifty (50) feet from the ordinary high water mark on each side of a stream, live conifers and hardwoods will be retained to maintain a minimum relative stocking per acre of sixty (60). A relative stocking per acre of ten (10) must be retained in the stream protection zone between fifty (50) feet and seventy-five (75) feet from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the stream.

(3) Only one option may be implemented within the stream protection zones of a harvesting unit covered by a single notification. Landowners are strongly encouraged to retain all trees immediately adjacent to the stream.

	Per Tree Contribution to Relative Stocking by Diameter Class						
	Diameter Class (DBH in inches)						
Forest Type	4-7.9"	8-11.9"	12-15.9"	16-19.9"	20-23.9"	24-27.9"	28-31.9"
NIGF (North Idaho Grand Fir)	0.097	0.209	0.347	0.506	0.683	0.878	1.088
CIGF (Central Idaho Grand Fir)	0.113	0.244	0.405	0.59	0.797	1.024	1.27
SIGF (Southern Idaho Grand Fir)	0.136	0.293	0.486	0.708	0.957	1.229	1.524
WHSF (Western Hemlock-Subalpine Fir)	0.123	0.267	0.442	0.644	0.87	1.117	1.385
DFPP (Douglas-fir-Ponderosa Pine)	0.151	0.326	0.54	0.787	1.063	1.366	1.693

5) Addition of Rule (Subparagraph) 20.02.030.07.e.iii.

iii. To protect the filtering and shade effects of streamside vegetation adjacent to all Class II streams following harvesting and hazard management activities, live trees will be retained or new trees established within thirty (30) feet on each side of the streams ordinary high water mark to comply with the minimum stocking standards expressed in Subsection 050.04.